

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-07 CPR-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SSC-01 DODE-00 /039 W
----- 107058

R 241444Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECSTATE WASHDC 9193

S E C R E T CAIRO 16329

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, RP

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET OFFICE DIR FOR MANILA

1. LEONID KOLESNIKOV, SOVIET FIRST SEC IN CAIRO, HAS DEPARTED FOR HOME LEAVE PRIOR TO TAKING UP NEW ASSIGNMENT IN MANILA. HE TELLS US HE EXPECTS TO ARRIVE MANILA IN JAN TO "OPEN" SOVIET EMBASSY THERE.

2. KOLESNIKOV WAS US AFFAIRS OFFICER IN SOVIET EMBASSY CAIRO. DESPITE HIS LABORED ENGLISH, HE PURSUED US ALL WITH TIRESOME ASSIDUOUSNESS. FILIPINO DIP HERE TELLS US HIS TAGALOG, WHILE HEAVILY ACCENTED, IS FLUENT (HE STUDIED IN MOSCOW). KOLESNIKOV HIMSELF SAYS HE IS DELIGHTED TO BE RETURNING TO FAR EAST, HIS AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (HE SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN BANGKOK), ESPECIALLY SINCE HE WILL BE A "COUNSELLOR".

3. COMMENT: FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE DEBATED AMONG OURSELVES AS TO WHETHER KOLESNIKOV WAS JUST PLAIN STUPID OR WAS PLAYING AN ACADEMY AWARD ROLE AS A NAIVE, BUMBLING, WELL MEANING BOLSHIEV, WE HAVE CONCLUDED UNANIMOUSLY THAT HE IS GENUINELY NON-SUAVE AND NOT VERY BRIGHT. CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF EMBASSY CAIRO MAINTAIN HE MUST BE FROM MFA, SINCE HE DOES NOT MEASURE UP TO MINIMUM STANDARDS OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS.

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4. WE PREDICT EMBASSY MANILA WILL FIND HIM READILY ACCESSIBLE
AND ONLY TOO WILLING TO IMPART AT LENGTH PARTY LINE ON TOPICS
FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN BRIEFED.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: MANILA
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